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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,325	02/12/2002	Steven G. Smith	010284	6444

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EXAMINER
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PATEL, CHIRAG R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/074,325

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Chirag R. Patel

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2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2, 3, and 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-14, and 16-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the displayed electronic message" in lines 3.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim

***Cancelled Claims***

As per claims 2-3 and 15: Claims 2,3, and 15 are cancelled.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4-14, and 16-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Storch et al. (US 5,920,846).

As per claims 1,14 and 21, Storch et al. discloses a method for communicating with a technician at a customer service location in a telecommunications system, (Col 82 lines 52-55, Figure 15 item 244) the method comprising

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receiving an electronic message from an administration system to a technician access device at a technician server operatively associated with the administration system; (Col 71 lines 44-49, Figure 15 item 276)

receiving a request for access to the message from the access device; (Col 72 lines 24-27)

verifying a first occurrence of access within a time period; and (Col 81 lines 25-28)

transmitting the received electronic message to the access device for display at the customer service location. (Col 71 lines 44-49, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claims 4 and 16, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising

displaying the electronic message on a screen display if the access is verified as the first occurrence in the time period. (Col 81 lines 25-51, Col 71 lines 44-49, Col 72 lines 14-30, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claims 5 and 17, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising not displaying the electronic message on a screen display if the access is verified as a second or subsequent time in the time period. (Col 81 lines 25-29, Col 81 lines 60-67)

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As per claim 6, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising sending the electronic message to an output device. (Col 71 lines 44-49)

As per claims 7 and 23, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising retrieving at least one previously generated electronic message. (Col 59 lines 22-45)

As per claims 8, 18, 24, and 32, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, wherein said the electronic message includes at least a first portion and a second portion. (Col 69 lines 46-64)

As per claims 9, 19, and 33, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 8, further comprising

customizing at least one of the portions of the electronic message for displaying the customized portion to at least one technician[[s]]. (Col 69 lines 45-67, Col 72 lines 28-30, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claims 10, 20, and 34, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 9, further comprising identifying a profile characteristic stored in the administration system in connection with customizing at least one of the portions. (Col 70 lines 40-57)

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As per claim 11, Storch et al. discloses a system for communicating with a technician at a customer service location in a telecommunications system, (Col 82 lines 52-55, Figure 15 item 244) the system comprising:

an administration system configured for generating at least one electronic message; (Col 80 lines 29-33)

a technician server operatively associated with the administration system, (Figure 15 item 276)

the technician server configured for receiving the generated electronic message; and, (Col 71 lines 44-49)

a screen display adapted for receiving the generated electronic message from the technician server and displaying the electronic message for viewing on an access device of the technician at the customer service location. (Col 72 lines 14-32, Col 82 lines 52-57, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claim 12, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 11, further comprising at least one output device operatively associated with the access device and configured for receiving the displayed electronic message. (Col 72 lines 14-30, Figure 15 items 276, 278)

As per claim 13, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 11, wherein the administration system includes a database having at least one profile characteristic stored thereon. (Col 70 lines 40-57)

As per claim 22, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 21, further comprising means for outputting the displayed electronic message. (Col 72 lines 16-23)

As per claim 25, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 24, further comprising means for customizing at least one of the portions of the electronic message. (Col 69 lines 46-67)

As per claim 26, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 25, further comprising means for displaying the customized portion to at least one technician. (Col 72 lines 14-23, Col 72 lines 28-30, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claim 27, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 25, further comprising

means for identifying a profile characteristic stored in the administration system, the administration system being operatively associated with the means for customizing at least a portion of the electronic message. (Col 70 lines 40-58)

As per claim 28, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 21, further comprising means for dismissing the displayed electronic message. (Col 72 lines 15-21) The means for dismissing the displayed electronic message is inherent to the TAS. (Figure 15 item 278)

As per claim 29, Storch et al. discloses a method for communicating with a technician at a customer service location in a telecommunications system, (Col 82 lines 52-55) the method comprising:

receiving access for a technician server for receiving an electronic message from an administration system operatively associated with the technician server, (Col 72 lines 24-27, Figure 15 item 276)

receiving the electronic message if access occurs for a first time within a predetermined time period; and (Col 81 lines 25-51, Col 71 lines 44-49, Col 72 lines 14-30, Figure 15 item 278)

communicating the message to an output device. (Col 71 lines 45-47, Col 72 lines 14-23, Col 72 lines 27-28, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claim 30, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 29, further comprising not receiving the electronic message if the access occurs for a second or subsequent time in the time period. (Col 81 lines 25-29, Col 81 lines 60-67)

As per claim 31, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 29, wherein the output device comprises a displaying screen. (Col 72 lines 14-23, Col 72 lines 28-30)  
The screen is inherent to the TAS. (Figure 15 item 278)



### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Doherty et al. (US 6,735,293) discloses a method and system for facilitating telecommunications. An automated system coordinates, controls and polices installation of customer premise equipment (CPE) for telecommunications services and provides continuing service assurance. Babayev et al. (US 5,615,121) discloses a system and method for scheduling service providers to perform customer service requests. Farris et al. (US 5,881,131) discloses maintaining the existing connections and/or identifications to customer facilities for a particular customer location.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag R. Patel whose telephone number is (571)272-7966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia, can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**RUPAL DHARIA**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER